

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

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OFFICERS

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RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

224.64 (Temporarily off the air)

444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org





PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Somehow, it's the time of year where holiday greetings are now appropriate!

I hope everyone can join us for some holiday cheer on De-

cember 7. And while we're at it, let's help spread some of that cheer to others.

Bring a toy and a QSL card to the meeting, and we'll take care of getting it in the hands of the White Dove Project for distribution to those in Florida who need a little cheer this season.

To use a familiar on-air greeting, "73 to you and your family" this holiday season!
-Andy

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: Every first Tuesday of the Month Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie

Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh

Time: 7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID and the original copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

The RARS 145.13 Repeater is waiting for YOU! PL 82.5 Tone





NEXT RARS MEETING: December 7, 2004 Christmas Party



RARS Christmas Party is for all RARS members and their families. Please bring your favorite Christmas treat to share. Finger foods of any kind are welcome.



Front Cover:

The White Dove Project of Martin County, Florida is asking for toys for children displaced by the hurricanes. On the front cover are Larry N4LEW and John KG4SWI holding a couple of the many toys collected at the November RARS meeting as part of the ARRL/RARS toy drive. We wish to thank all those who brought toys. We'll be collecting again at the December 7th meeting. Bring a new toy for ages 1-14, unwrapped and with a QSL card or 3x5 card with your name and callsign.

Photo by Denyse K4DAW

DID YOU KNOW.....

There is a dinner once a month, known as the RARS Dinner, where hams and non-hams get together to eat, socialize and become better acquainted.

Are you looking for a ham-related activity that your spouse, date, or family can participate in, even if they don't want to be an amateur radio operator? This is it. Do you want to meet interesting, likeable people in a nice environment? This is for you.

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting in the private dining room at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30 P.M., and things usually wind down by 8 P.M. or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

RARS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership renewals and new membership dues can be paid at RARS meetings, online at the RARS website, or mailed to the RARS treasurer. Mail To:

Greg Seamster RARS Treasurer 1405 Leanne Court Raleigh, NC 27606

RARS now accepts credit card payments online for new members and membership renewals. See the RARS website (www.rars.org) for more information. You can join or renew for 1, 2, or 3 years.

LOOKing Back 30 Years

Taken from the November 1974 Exciter

The Oscar 7 amateur satellite was planned to be launched October 29, 1974. Al Weber, WB4PHQ, chairman of the RARS TV1/RF1 committee submitted another successful project report which will be filed with the FCC at Norfolk, VA.

Prices: FT-224 24 Channel FM \$269.00 FT-200 200 Channel Synthesized Transceiver \$449.00

FT-2 8 Channel Scanning Transceiver \$379.00

FT-101-B 160-10 Meter Transceiver - \$649.00

200 MHz Frequency Counter \$289.00



LOOKing Back 10 Years

Taken from the November 1994 Exciter

The 145.13 W4ATC NC State University Radio Club Repeater is now atop the DH Hill Library on Campus. The 145.13 STARS machine is a co-operative effort of the NCSU Radio Club and the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. Several low power (QRP) enthusiasts in the triangle area have expressed an interest in forming a regional QRP Association.

NEW HAMFEST!

The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club announces a new hamfest: the Winston-Salem Winter Swapfest Saturday, January 8, 2005 8:00 AM to Noon at the Summit School 2100 Reynolda Road (Across from Reynolda House)



November 2004

We would like to welcome our new member to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

Rick K4RLE Courtney new ham Dennis N4DKK

HAMFEST CALENDAR

November 21 Benson, NC--JARSFEST

December 4 Gastonia, NC
January 8, 2005 Winston-Salem
February 5 Charleston ARS, SC
February TBA Richmond, VA Frostfest

March 6 Kinston, NC
March 12-13 Charlotte, NC
April 16 Morganton, NC
April 17th Raleigh, NC--RARSFEST
May 20-22 Dayton, OH
May 21 Williamston, NC
May 28* Durham, NC

June 11 Winston-Salem, NC

June 25-26 FIELD DAY

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal *Date is not confirmed



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO MR & MRS BREEDEN





Issue 237 December, 1989

Club Repeaters: 146.04/64 & 223.04/224.64

Noble Phelps, N4UOQ & Edward Breeden, N4SSU WED!

RARS VHF/UHF SIG Accused of Match Making!!

Saturday, October 28, 1989, N4SSU & N4UOQ tied the knot at 2:00 PM. While RARS has several husband-wife "teams" on the roster, none besides Noble & Edward can claim that they met thru RARS!

At the wodding, the bride & groom were threatened with the "traditional" ceremony of crossed HT antennas, but alas, all were 'rubber duckies', and the couple was too tall!

KB4EXL served as a bride's maid,

KB4EXL served as a bride's maid, and WA4MJF, KB4VYP, KM4BU, N4SSS, WA4SKH, N4SSO, & KB7LX, were all in attendance. KB4EXL claims match-making

KB4EXL claims match-making credit — and rumor has it that N4SSS is recruiting new, single YLs into the club. Batchelors, watch ou!!! CONGRATULATIONS & best

CONGRATULATIONS & best of luck to Noble & Edward! (Will the first harmonic be "Crystal" or "Roger"?)



Fifteen years ago, this October 28th, Edward Breeden(N4SSU) and Noble Phelps-Breeden (N4UOQ) were married. At the time, Edward and Noble were the first known couple who had met through RARS to marry. Several RARS members took part in the wedding ceremonies. Edward and Noble's wedding photo appeared on the cover of the November 1989 Exciter. While not as active in ham radio today, Edward and Noble have maintained their ham licenses and pop up on the RARS repeaters from time to time.



DECEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

W2YBN	12/02
KC8DSD	12/03
KG4FJA	12/06
KE4PNT	12/06
NC4VA	12/09
KC4UQN	12/09
WB2EYC	12/10
KA2FWC	12/12
KS4VX	12/12
KE4ZNS	12/15
W4YC	12/16
AG4XR	12/17
KC4THW	12/18
W3EZR	12/18
WB4ZSM	12/20
W4FMN	12/21
KI4BZC	12/22
W4FSO	12/24
KF4NGR	12/25
KG4RIY	12/27
KD4ISC	12/31
AG4RH	12/05
	KC8DSD KG4FJA KE4PNT NC4VA KC4UQN WB2EYC KA2FWC KS4VX KE4ZNS W4YC AG4XR KC4THW W3EZR WB4ZSM W4FMN KI4BZC W4FSO KF4NGR KG4RIY KD4ISC

If you have a special event in your life please contact the Exciter editor and share the excitement. Email: K4DAW@nc.rr.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Rick K4RLE on passing the Code test and upgrading to General

Dennis K4DKK for passing the EXTRA class license exam

Randy KE4PNT for passing the EXTRA class license exam

Courtney Enzor for passing the TECH class license exam

These tests were taken at the November 2004 RARS meeting test session.

A Few Interesting Items About Old-Time Radio

By Tom McKee K4ZAD

The decade of the 1920s was strange - movies without sound and broadcasting without pictures.

New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Detroit were the centers of radio program origination. However, much of the Chicago and some of the New York programs & talent moved to Los Angeles over time.

Radio and newspapers battled over the news in the 20s & 30s. Radio's speed won the battle.

The musicians' strike of 1942-44 helped speed the demise of the big bands because, while they couldn't record the vocalists could, and did, and they rose in popularity. The bands never recovered when the strike was over.

The sponsors (and their ad agencies) called the shots so some programs frequently changed networks.

One commentator of the OTR era stated that, "Radio had a conscience - TV never developed one." There was a lot of marginal quality programming on radio, but the networks tried hard to take the, "high ground," often at the expense of profit. They frequently aired quality shows that had no sponsor.

Anyone who could accurately read their lines, express real emotion with their voice and not rattle the script could work in radio. Appearance didn't make any difference and there was no need to memorize.

Most programs were live, rehearsed minimally and only performed twice - for East coast & West coast.

These last two factors limited the radio work of many stage, vaudeville and movie veterans. Stage & vaudeville were the same night after night. Movie work normally utilized many retakes to get it right.

Some radio actors had the ability to mimic or change voices and utilized it to play multiple parts on the same show. Some, like Art Carney and Hans Conried, could also accurately mimic other actors, and when someone was unable to appear for a show they played his part.

The need for material to fill the time (acts, scripts, jokes, etc.) was almost overwhelming compared to previous forms of entertainment - live stage performances and movies. Radio kept an army of authors busy for many years. Some of the great authors and playwrights wrote for radio but didn't advertise it.

Many great radio performers were unable to make the shift to TV. They couldn't memorize, couldn't gracefully move around and work with props, their voice didn't match their appearance, etc.

Radio made the nation smaller and smarter. It brought higher quality entertainment and culture to the smallest burg and diminished regional differences - a trend that continued with TV.

A dynamic selection of programs is posted on the Internet at the following Usenet Newsgroups:

Alt.binaries.sounds.radio.oldtime

Alt. binaries. sound. radio. old time. high speed

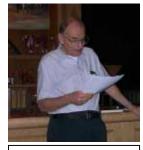
The files are large so if many are desired a highspeed internet connection is essential. A "Newsreader" program is also needed. One of the best is Xnews, found at: http://xnews.newsguy.com/ There is also a manual for the program

at this site, and more help is available at: http://www.seegras.de/xnews/

Photos by Denyse K4DAW



Bob KF4JVY, at the SWL meeting



Tom K4ZAD speaker at the SWL meeting

Clinton 443.075 Repeater Under Construction By Ronnie K4JDR

David, N4JDW has the Clinton 443.075+ 88.5 PL repeater under construction at his shop. David reports that the antenna system will be installed soon and the building should be available sometime in the next couple of months to install the repeater. This repeater will be on the UHF link system to the backbone Hub and will give coverage down I-40 to Wilmington.

A few pictures are posted in the photo gallery that David recently took of the site and more will be posted in the future at:

http://www.caryncrepeater.com/repeaterTechnicalInfo.htm

An updated Frequency list is available at:

http://www.caryncrepeater.com/repeaters_on_link.htm



THANKS TO ALL THE FAIR VOLUNTEERS







Thanks to all that worked shifts at the state fair this year. We had good participation and everyone seemed to have a great time. The above pictures are of the new trailer that was used for the Red Cross and our communications room.

Photo by: Bob K1RCB

146.64 Repeater Coming to Surf City Gary Pearce KN4AQ

Brothers Jim N9JE and Joe W4TSI Ebner are filling a ham-radio gap between Wilmington and Jacksonville with a new club and two new repeaters in Pender County. The club is the Coastal Pender Amateur Radio Club (CPARC), and one of the repeaters will be on 146.64, the same channel as the main RARS repeater in Raleigh. The Surf City 64 machine will be local coverage, less than 100 feet above ground. It isn't on the air yet, but should be on soon.

With the machine located about 115 miles from Raleigh, we can expect to hear its output, and occasionally its users keying up our machine, during band openings. This fills in the last "quadrant" of co-channel 64 machines, with our other neighbors to the north in Richmond VA, west in Winston-Salem, and south in Sumter SC. The big difference is that this machine is closer than Richmond and Sumter, and we have a null toward Winston-Salem. Our 64 machine actually favors the southeast, directly toward Surf City.

Even so, our mobile coverage peters out just past Newton Grove on I-40, about 50 miles from the repeater. We might hear base stations a few miles farther, but there are no regular users in that direction.

RARS intends to remain carrier access on 146.64 as long as practical, and if users of the new Surf City machine and our machine use reasonable power and good operating procedure, we shouldn't see a problem.



Brothers Jim N9JE (left) and Joe W4TSI (center) talk to Paul AD4HZ at the Wilmington VHF Association meeting in October. Jim and Joe are starting the Coastal Pender Amateur Radio Club, and the new 146.64 machine in Surf City.



Surf City is about 115 miles southeast of the RARS repeater in Raleigh.

Photos by: Gary KN4AQ

GENERAL MEETING

November 2, 2004

The monthly meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at Forest Hills Baptist Church on Tuesday, November 2, 2004. President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Visitor Curt Montgomery, KI4HFY, was recognized and welcomed.

At Large Director Jim Walter, K4FIJ, announced that RARS is participating in a Christmas toy drive for children in hurricane-stricken areas of Florida in conjunction with the United Way White Dove Project. Members are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy suitable for a boy or girl from age 1 to 14 to the December general meeting. A QSL card or a 3 x 5 card with the donor's name and call sign should be attached. If members prefer to donate money, checks may be written to White Dove, c/o United Way of Martin County. Denyse and JimWalter, K4DAW and K4FIJ, will deliver the toys to Florida.

Public Service Director Bob Breyer, K1RCB, thanked those individuals who served with the Red Cross at the N.C. State Fair as well as those who helped with other recent events in Durham and Cary.

Andy Peterson, NI4S, announced that the Encore Singers would perform at the December general meeting. Members are encouraged to bring treats to share.

Treasurer Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, reported that there are currently 234 members.

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, presented certificates to Joe Squashic, W4TTO, and Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, for successfully completing the basic and advanced NTS Traffic Training Program.

Nominating Committee Chairman, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, presented the slate of officers, board members, and committee chairmen for 2005. The candidates were accepted unanimously, and they will be installed at

the December general meeting. The slate is as follows:

Officers for 2-year terms:

Vice President: Dick Bitner W8HYD Treasurer: Greg Seamster, KE4PAX Secretary: Dick Orander, KD4ISC

Board Members for 1 term:

Public Information Officer: Gary Pearce, KN4AQ RARS 2005 Hamfest Chair: Hank Montgomery, K4HM RARS Exciter Editor: Denyse Walter, K4DAW

RARS Net Manager: Mary Holtschneider, KG4OQA At-Large Director: Johnnie Mayfield, WA9SZL

At-Large Director: Bob Breyer, K1RCB

At-Large Director: Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT

At-Large Director: Jim Walter, K4FIJ

FM Repeater Chair: Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

RARS Membership Chair: Denyse Walter, K4DAW

ARRL Liaison: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF W4DW, W4RNC Trustee: Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO

Committee Chairmen

RARS 2005 Field Day Chair: Neal Fisher, N4HAF

RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators - Liz and Joe White, KO4CK and

WA4GIR

RARS Web Master: Tim Nicholson, W4NOT

For the program, Andy Peterson, showed an interesting video featuring the 3B9C DXpedition to Rodrigues Island.

KE4PAX and KJ4BX won the door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, Secretary

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Minutes of the RARS Board Meeting September 21, 2004

The RARS board meeting was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Tuesday, September 21, 2004. Members present were W8HYD, K1RCB, K4HF, K4HM, K4MJL, KG4RMT, KN4AQ, NI4S, KE4PAX, K4DAW, K4FIJ and NC4VA.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

The minutes from the August board meeting were presented, amended and approved.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer's Report (KE4PAX): There are currently 228 members. A reminder by email has been sent those who have not renewed their membership.

Vice President's Report (W8HYD):

- A class will start in October for the Technician Class license.
 Interest has been expressed in a class for preparation for the General Class license.
- The October RARS program will be the annual auction.

Committee Reports

FM Committee (KA2FWC): No report

Exciter (K4DAW): A roster will be published in the November Exciter. Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, noted that postage has increased for the mailing of the Exciter due to its not being tabbed.

Net Manager (KG4OQA): In absence of KG4OQA, Andy Peterson, NI4S, reported that everything is fine with the net.

Web Master (W4NOT): No report

Membership (K4DAW): There were 8 new visitors at the last general meeting.

Hamfest (K4HM): The first planning meeting for RARSfest 2005 will be held September 27. There are 2 positions to be filled: admissions/ticket sales and contesting/judging.

Field Day (N4HAF): No report

Public Information (KN4AQ): An article on amateur radio and BPL still has not yet appeared in The News and Observer.

Education (K4RLC): In absence of K4RLC, Andy Peterson, NI4S, reported that the education chairman would like to emphasize good operating practices.

VE Team (WA4GIR & KO4CK): No report

Public Service (K1RCB):

- A card was received from the officials of the MS-150 thanking the club for its participation and support of the event.
- Volunteers are needed for the upcoming N.C. State Fair and the Autism Ribbon Run.

ARRL Liaison (K4HF): Nothing to report

Nominating Committee (K4HF): A slate of nominations will be pre-

sented at the October general meeting.

W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (AC4ZO): No report

At-Large Directors (WA9SZL, K4FIJ & KG4RMT): Nothing to report

Special or Ad Hoc Committees: No report

Unfinished Business:

- The auction needs advertising.
- The monthly RARS dinner has been changed to the second Tuesday of the month.

New Business:

- Andy Peterson, NI4S, requested that Denyse Walter, K4DAW, bring the "Welcome to the Club" letter to the next board meeting.
- Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, indicated that Tim Buelhmann, W4TIM, is looking for help with the Cuboree.
- Andy Peterson, NI4S, requested that board members think about writing up the duties of their positions and a timeline indicating when various tasks should be accomplished.
- Bob Breyer, K1RCB, asked if hams might be interested in FEMA certification courses.

On motion by Hank Montgomery, K4HM, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, Secretary

146.88 145.39, 147.105, & 147.135 Repeaters are supported by PCRN. If you would like to donate please make checks to:

PCRN PO Box 12734 Raleigh, NC 27605

More info at www.pcrn.net

NET REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 2004

8:00PM DAILY: RARS Evening Net

Participants 540 Traffic 34/33 Time 791 minutes Sessions 31

8:30PM SAT: Tech & Traders Net 9:00PM MON: SWL/SIG

> Participants 55 Traffic 0/0 Time 386 Minutes Sessions 9

Awards and Technician Class License given at the RARS November Meeting



Courtney Enzor, daughter of Virginia NC4VA, passed the Technician Class license exam



Joe W4TTO received his traffic training certificate. The traffic training is 125 messages of instructions on how to send and receive traffic.



Virginia NC4VA also received her traffic training certificate. The training is every night at 8:00 on 146.64 for anyone who wishes to learn how to receive and send traffic. It's very important to know, when there's emergencies and no other communication is available.

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The Central Carolina Skywarn Net Meets Tuesdays at 9:15 PM on 146.88 Repeater

SKYWARN DINNER

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER WE WILL NOT MEET Next dinner is JANUARY 30, 2005, 6:00pm, at the Golden Corral in Raleigh on Glenwood Avenue.

NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The 6th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day will be December 4, 2004 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. We will meet at the Raleigh NWS to make contacts on HF, IRLP and 2 meter. There's limited room so we need to have names of those interested. Please contact Bob wx4mmm@arrl.net or Denyse k4daw@nc.rr.com.

SO MANY FUNNEL CLOUDS, SO FEW TORNADOES!

We have always had a tendency to receive numerous funnel cloud reports. This is one reason why we spend time in the SKYWARN class discussing and viewing tornado, funnel cloud, and tornado look-alike images. However, this year in particular we've received an overabundance of funnel cloud reports. As we discuss in the SKYWARN class, there are many things that resemble funnel clouds, but not many are actually rotating. There is a rule that is often used in the Central Region of the National Weather Service. It states, "If it doesn't spin, don't call it in". This is probably not a bad idea. We have received funnel cloud reports (sometimes even tornado on the ground reports) during every severe weather episode this year. A large portion of these reports originate with the general public. However, there are also some that come in from SKYWARN.

There are many things, which appear as funnel clouds, including fractus clouds and scud clouds. There's also a tremendous amount of shear within thunderstorms. Many times you can see the various clouds moving in different directions. However, you won't always see "rotation". Please try to have patience. Look for rotation and look for debris.

With so many reports of funnel clouds, you can understand why every report does not generate a Tornado Warning from the NWS. First of all, no report is taken lightly. We investigate each one using our radar and surrounding radars. We use multiple mechanisms and several resources to determine whether to issue a warning. If we had issued warnings based on all of the funnel cloud reports we have received, there would be so many Tornado Warnings that people would become complacent/desensitized and no longer believe us when there actually was a tornado. Although we have had funnel and/or tornado reports with every severe weather episode this year, we have only had two confirmed tornadoes within our county warning area.

73 Bob WX4MMM

SKYWARN AT THE RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM "DISASTERS IN RALEIGH" EXHIBIT



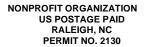
AEC Denyse K4DAW, EC John K4JVP, Rick AJ9F, Virginia NC4VA, Bob WX4MMM



There were about 82 visitors to the SKY-WARN station.



Virginia NC4VA and Bob WX4MMM posing for WRAL cameraman.





SKYWARN AT THE RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM, AND TOYS FOR FLORIDA



Skywarn was represented at the opening of the Raleigh City Museum, Disasters in Raleigh exhibit on October 16, 2004 with a special event station that made 56 contacts on 146.88. Virginia NC4VA is shown logging the contacts and Bob WX4MMM is holding an HT in the air to get a better signal in the repeater. Equipment failure was corrected later in the day.



Collecting toys for the Florida children who have been displaced by this summer's hurricanes. David KF4VXJ places a toy in the collection box at the RARS meeting in November.

Photos: Denyse K4DAW & Jim K4FIJ